



June 9, 2017

**Re: Ridge Meadows Recycling Society -
New Horizons for Seniors Grant Application
Letter of Support**

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to support the Repair Café project initiated by Ridge Meadows Recycling Society. Repair Cafés are a worldwide, grassroots movement where volunteers do free repairs on items brought to a central location by residents.

Repair Cafés have multiple benefits to the community, including:

- promoting volunteerism & capacity-building
- valuing and encouraging tinkering, craft, and repair skills
- providing an opportunity for seniors to engage with the community
- providing an opportunity for youth to learn new skills
- creating intergenerational mentorship opportunities
- encouraging repair and reuse as opposed to a throw-away culture
- keeping items out of the landfill

Our organization, HUB Cycling, works to make cycling better through education, action and events. More cycling means healthier, happier, more connected communities. We're leading the way in making cycling an attractive choice for everyone.

We are a charitable non-profit organization, established in 1998 (originally named the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition) to improve cycling conditions in Metro Vancouver. We've impacted infrastructure, educated thousands of children and adults and motivated thousands more.

Some of the things we do:

- Provide bicycle education, including basic bicycle maintenance, to all ages
- Communicate & encourage more people to cycle, more often
- Build a fun & social community with events, programs & courses
- Work with governments, businesses & community organizations

In Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows, while there are various programs for seniors, Repair Cafés have a unique role to play and the potential to fill some gaps. The Cafés rely on volunteers to both organize the events and to be present at the event to do repairs. Drawing seniors into the community and re-igniting dormant skills can create confidence and relationships. Helping repair fellow community



members' jewelry, appliances, clothing, bicycles, furniture, and toys creates a sense of accomplishment, purpose, and fulfillment. Setting up mentorship opportunities between seniors and youth means skills and experiences have a way of being passed on while new skills and career opportunities can open up.

We support the Repair Café initiative and are excited about seeing these come to fruition in our community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Bellamy'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Barry' being more legible than the last name 'Bellamy'.

Barry Bellamy, Co-Chair

HUB Cycling

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter

LK/JC/BB/EO/AC